

The Missiles Leave Cuba (U)

Classification of text is SECRET

Missile transporters began leaving Cuba on 1 November when four merchant ships departed from the north coast port of Mariel, site of the Cuban Naval Academy, about 20 miles west of Havana. By 10 November 42 missile transporters were aboard ship and underway; the majority to Black Sea waters, the others to the Baltic. This was equivalent to the number of MRBM which the Soviet government had stated were present in Cuba.

None of the large-hatched Soviet merchant ships which had delivered the missiles to Cuba were in the area. The transporters were therefore deck loaded on available shipping, despite

the possibility of damage from exposure above board on a winter crossing of the Atlantic. Although they were tightly wrapped in a rubberized waterproof envelope and covered with layers of canvas, it is evident that some possibility of damage in heavy weather remains.

As we go to press there has been no indication of the departure of any Soviet technicians or troops associated with the SA-2 or cruise missile sites, or those assigned to ground defense roles.

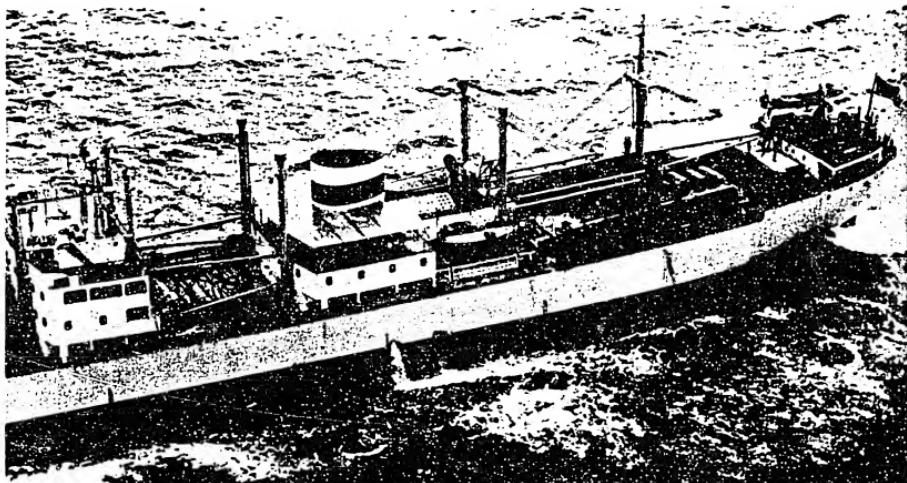
The following table shows that the missile transporters were aboard eight ships. Two other ships carried missile associated equipment.

Exiting port	GRT	Departure date	Missile transporters	Erectors	Launch stands	Fuel trailers	Oxidizer trailers	Vans	Generators	Propellant trailers (IRBM)	Launch sites (IRBM)
MARIEL:											
BRATSK-----	5,518	5 Nov	2		1	2					
DVINOGORSK-----	9,935	5 Nov	4	1		1					
I. POLZUNOV-----	7,176	10 Nov	5			1		3			
LABINSK-----	9,820	5 Nov	2								
M. ANOSOV-----	12,090	5 Nov	8	1				2			
VOLGOLES-----	4,638	8 Nov	7					3			
LA ISABELA:											
ALAPAYEVSK-----	4,652	8 Nov				4	1(2)	7			
ALMETYEVSK-----	5,411	10 Nov						9			
CASILDA:											
F. KURCHATOV-----	12,090	7 Nov	6	1					4	1	2
L. KOMSOMOL-----	12,090	9 Nov	8	1							
Totals: Observed on ships after 5 November-----			42	4	1	8	1(2)	23	1	2	
Totals: Observed in Cuba prior to 5 November-----			33	24	24	31	71	23	13	4	6

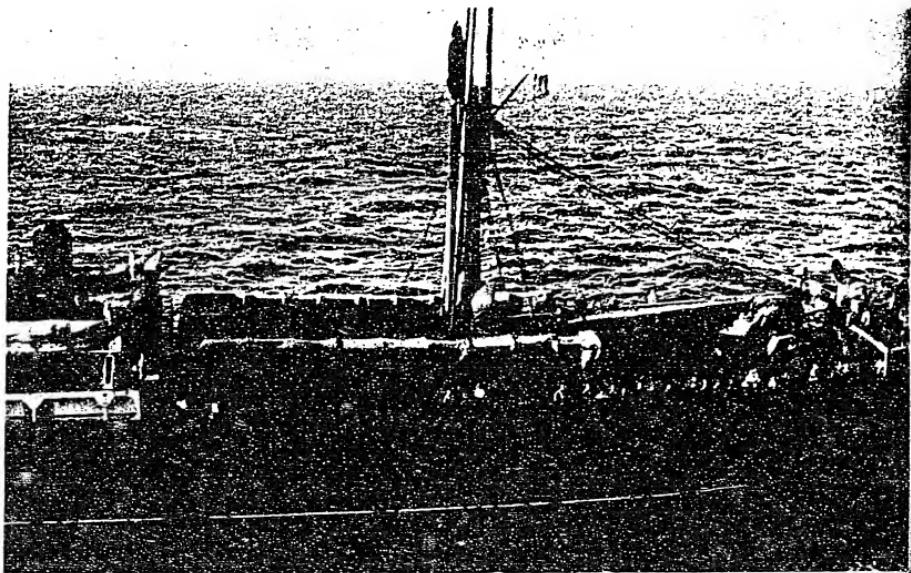
¹ Estimated oxidizer trailers.

DECLASSIFIED

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Missile transporters aboard the Soviet merchantman BRATSK, with canvas coverings removed. The transporters were wrapped in a rubberized waterproof material.



Closeup of missile transporters aboard the IVAN POLZUNOV.